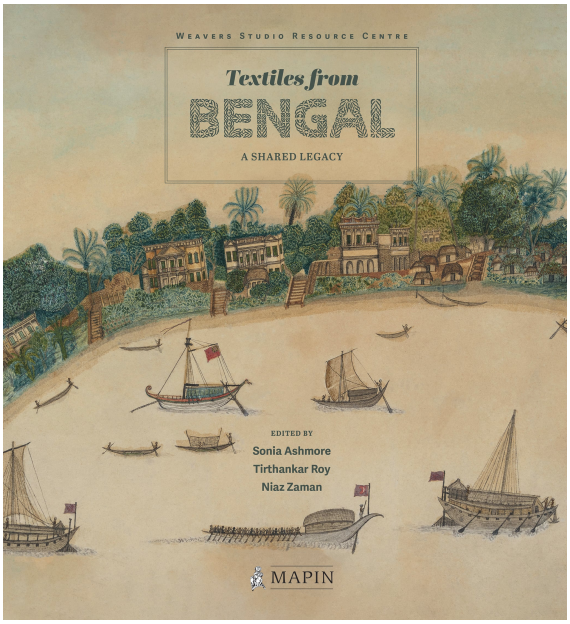
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Textiles from Bengal

A Shared Legacy

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- Pioneering publication explores the lost textile traditions of Bengal from 16th to 20th century
- Supported by superb illustrations, maps and documents from the past, most of which not published before
- Dialogue between historians, anthropologists, art historians, textile practitioners and textile scholars
- Serves as a public history, bringing together diverse perspectives and expertise on the textile tradition of greater Bengal

The famed Bengal textiles which once 'clothed the world' have received little scholarly attention. With the systemic destruction of Bengal's textile industry, prompted by the Industrial Revolution in Europe, the muslins and Balucharis of Bengal were lost in obscurity. The partition of the Indian subcontinent and the consequent varieties of cultural and social identity in present-day India and Bangladesh have contributed to this neglect. This pioneering publication explores in depth the lost textile traditions of Bengal from the 16th to the 20th century and traces its impact on the historical and cultural aspects of the region.

Supported by superb illustrations of textiles, maps and trade documents from the past, most of which have never been published before, the book serves as a public history, with engaging chapters presenting a unique perspective on the textiles of wider Bengal. This volume will inspire the reader, reorient scholarly attention and provoke a rethinking of the nature and history of Bengal textiles.

Sonia Ashmore is a design historian, lecturer and writer based in London, UK. As a Research Fellow at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, she has published on the museum's extensive South Asian textile collections, including the book Muslin.

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Niaz Zaman, former Professor at the University of Dhaka, retired in 2023 as Advisor, Department of English and Modern Languages, Independent University, Bangladesh. Her books include the first volume on nakshi kantha, titled The Art of Kantha Embroidery, and A Descriptive Catalogue of Textile Objects in the Bangladesh National Museum.

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